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Comment on the proposed conservation of the specific names of *Hydrosaurus gouldii* Gray, 1838 (currently *Varanus gouldii*) and *Varanus panoptes* Storr, 1980 (Reptilia, Squamata) by the designation of a neotype for *H. gouldii* (Case 3042; see BZN 54: 95–99)

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I am writing in support of the proposal by Dr R.G. Sprackland, Prof H.M. Smith and Dr P.D. Strimple for the conservation of the specific names of *Varanus gouldii* (Gray, 1838) and *V. panoptes* Storr, 1980.

I believe that their case was very well put and their suggested solution would be of great benefit in clarifying what is currently an awkward matter. I have written a number of scientific papers and one book on members (*Varanus gouldii*, *V. panoptes* and *V. rosenbergi*) of what was formerly known as a single species, *V. gouldii*. In all of these I have followed the nomenclature of Cogger (1992) and feel this is

appropriate because of the almost universal acceptance of these specific names in their accustomed senses.

I believe that the confusion that has resulted from the publication by Böhme (1991), which was correct under the Code, in the naming of animals within this species complex would be solved by accepting the proposal of Sprackland et al. and that their suggested solution would meet with general approval by herpetologists. I fully support their suggested course of action.

Comments on the proposed conservation of the specific name of *Varanus teriae* Sprackland, 1991 (Reptilia, Squamata)

(Case 3043; see BZN 54: 100–103)

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I am much surprised to find in the *Bulletin* a request to conserve a name less than six years old by suppression of a synonym six years older. The application makes admirably clear that there is no doubt that *Varanus teriae* Sprackland, 1991 and *Odatria keithhornei* Wells & Wellington, 1985 are objective synonyms as they both are based on the same holotype specimen. As far as I can see the only reason for suppression of the older name is that its publication was obscure, but through all the publicity it now receives, it is not so any longer. Of course it is to be regretted that the authors of the older name took so little trouble to publicise the results of their research; judging by the application their (1985a) publication is virtually unknown.

The facts that the two names were both available published, that their synonymy is not in any doubt, and that this synonymy has existed for only six years, in my view make it entirely illogical that the older of the two names should be suppressed. In six years a name cannot become so generally accepted that its replacement would be a disaster.

The Commission should judge the case on its own merits, and not be influenced that the authors of the older name, Wells & Wellington, have previously been the subject of a nomenclatural controversy.

(2) R.G. Sprackland

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Professor Holthuis is opposed (above) to our application to conserve the specific name of *Varanus teriae* Sprackland, 1991 on the grounds that the name has been in